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DATE: Sunday, October 02, 2005 [Printable Copy](#) [Create Case](#)

<u>Set</u>	<u>Hit</u>	<u>Set</u>
<u>Name</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Name</u>
side by side		result set
DB=PGPB,USPT; PLUR=YES; OP=ADJ		
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L4 (automatic\$4 or automat\$3 or electronic\$6) same (add\$3 or delet\$3 or remov\$6 or modify\$4 or modifiable) same table same (content or object) same claim\$3 same (insurance or assurance)	9	<u>L4</u>
DB=USPT; PLUR=YES; OP=ADJ		
L3 11 and (automatic\$4 or automat\$3 or electronic\$6) same (add\$3 or delet\$3 or same table same (content or object)	0	<u>L3</u>
L2 L1 and us\$3 same table same (content or object)	1	<u>L2</u>
L1 (6343271 or 5862325 or 5914714).pn.	3	<u>L1</u>

END OF SEARCH HISTORY

[First Hit](#) [Fwd Refs](#)[Previous Doc](#) [Next Doc](#) [Go to Doc#](#)[End of Result Set](#) [Generate Collection](#) [Print](#)

L2: Entry 1 of 1

File: USPT

Jan 19, 1999

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5862325 A

TITLE: Computer-based communication system and method using metadata defining a control structure

Detailed Description Text (235):

The use of notification elements and notification methods to control messaging involves the following sets of steps. First the provider uses the create new element form (341, FIG. 9) in the provider program 12 to create notification element instances for each communications topic where the provider wishes to allow consumers to control notification. FIG. 22 illustrates a typical create new element form for notification elements. The provider inputs the name and description attribute for the information topic covered by the notification element. For example, the name of a notification element for a company selling a software product might be "New Version Announcements". For an on/off-type notification element, the description might be, "Includes all new version announcements, both minor and major upgrades". For a range-type notification element, the description might be "Choose from one to five. One receives only full point upgrade announcements. Five receives all new product announcements, including weekly maintenance patches." A list of these notification elements would appear similar to the table of contents for a newsletter, or the items on a customer interest survey. The provider can assign notification elements to one or more pages (142, FIG. 3) which in turn can be assigned to one or more communications objects (110, FIG. 3). The provider may consolidate notification elements on one or more pages specifically for this purpose, or intersperse them with other element types on various pages. Optionally the provider can also create the initial versions of each message element or other type of element associated with each notification element.

[Previous Doc](#) [Next Doc](#) [Go to Doc#](#)